

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 NRC-05 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 OES-03 FEAE-00 DODE-00

AID-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 ERDA-05 /074 W

----- 050335

R 291303Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4364

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5424

ALSO FOR NRC

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ECIN, KU,SA, BA

SUBJ: JOINT KUWAIT/SAUDI/BAHRAIN NUCLEAR PROJECT

REF: A) KWUWAIT 3723 B) KUWAIT 2504

1. DURING COURSE FAREWELL CALL PAID BY AMBASSADOR, GOK MINISTER
ELECTRICITY & WATER ABDULLAH AL-GHANIM REMARKED BRIEFLY ABOUT
JOINT KUWAIT/SAUDI/BAHRAIN NUCLEAR PROJECT ADDING FURTHER DETAIL
TO INFO REPORTED REFTEL (B). ACCORDING MINISTER, PROJECT STILL IS
VERY MUCH ALIVE WITH AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, REACHED THAT FACILITY
WILL BE LOCATED AT DAMMAN AND CONSIST, INITIALLY, OF ONE 1300
MGW PLANT TO BE SUPPLEMENTED LATER BY SECOND 1,500 MGW
PLANT. ELECTRICITY WILL BE FED INTO GRIDS OF ALL THREE COUNTRIES
AND 100-150 MILLION GALLONS OF FRESH WATER PRODUCED DAILY FOR USE
PRIMARILY IN SAUDI ARABIA. COST OF PROJECT COULD EXCEED \$1.8

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BILLION.

2. IF ABOVE PROJECT DOES NOT MATERIALIZE, GOK INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO CONSTRUCT 600 MGW PLANT IN KUWAIT. MINISTER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT BASE LOAD WOULD FULLY JUSTIFY PLANT OF ABOVE SIZE. LOCAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION HAD INCREASE FIVE-FOLD IN PERIOD FROM 1952-1974 (TO SLIGHTLY ABOVE 5,000 KWG PER PERSON PER DAY) AND WILL INCREASE AGAIN DRAMATICALLY IN PERIOD TO 1985. BY THE END OF THE CENTURY, THE MINISTRY EXPECTS IT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE ELECTRIC POWER FOR PROJECTED 2.2 MILLION INHABITANTS AND SUBSTANTIAL INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

3. FOREGOING INFORMATION FROM AL-GHANIM WAS TRIGGERED BY MY MENTION OF COMMENTS BY CROWN PRINCE/PM JABIR AL-AHMED AT MY FAREWELL CALL ON HIM TO EFFECT THAT GOK ENGAGED IN NEW PUSH TO INCREASE ITS TIES IN ALL FIELDS WITH OTHER SMALL STATES IN GULF. CP/PM CITED KUWAITI OFFERS OF JOINING PARTICIPATION IN SHIPPING AND CIVIL AVIATION. AL-GHANIM CONFIRMED THESE ACTIVITIES AND CITED EFFORTS IN NUCLEAR FIELD IN ADDITION.
STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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